Pitiable working condition of employees of Garment Industry

191. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware about the pitiable working conditions and low wages of the employees working in the Garment Industries in the country; specially in Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by Government to improve the working conditions and the wages of the employees of the Garment Industries sector in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) No specific complaints about the pitiable working conditions and low wages of the employees working in the Garment Industries in the country have been received.

(c) State Governments are empowered to fix the minimum wages and to provide suitable working environment for the workers engaged in the garment industries.

Steps to promote handloom industry in Assam

192. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to promote the Handloom Industry in Assam;

(b) the district-wise details of Central assistance given for helping the weavers community during the last 3 years in Assam; and

(c) whether the Ministry has any proposal or any special scheme to upgrade the Pat, Muga and Eri Silk Handloom in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) The Government of India is following a policy of promoting and encouraging the Handloom industry in the country including the State of Assam through a number of programmes and schemes to increase its production productivity and efficiency and enhance the income and socio-economic status of weavers by upgrading their skills, supply of inputs, providing infrastructure & marketing support.

(b) The Central assistance is being released to State Governments on receipt of viable proposals. As such, no district wise details of central assistance is maintained. However, the Government of Assam has been released Rs. 539.39 lakh, Rs. 555.50 lakh and Rs. 820.63 lakh under various scheme during 2004-05,2005-06, and 2006-07, respectively.

(c) Government of Assam can avail central assistance under various schemes of the Textile Ministry as per the guidelines of those schemes.

Extension of TUFS to Eleventh Plan

193. SHRI S. ANBALGAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) is proposed to be extended to the Eleventh Five Year Plan;